



DIGEST SUPPLEMENT

To Legislative Digest and History of Bills
Supplement No. 60*

FIFTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Friday, April 13, 2001

96th Day - 2001 Regular

SENATE

SB 6143-S
SB 6176
SB 6177
SB 6178

HOUSE

HB 1832-S
HB 2241
HB 2242

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*To be discarded upon receipt of Edition No. 1 of the Legislative Digest and History of Bills

House Bills

HB 1832-S by House Committee on Appropriations
(originally sponsored by Representatives
Linville and G. Chandler; by request of Governor Locke)

Modifying provisions concerning water management.

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 4/11/01)

Declares that the legislature is committed to meeting the needs of a growing population and a healthy economy statewide; to meeting the needs of fish and healthy watersheds statewide; and to advancing these two principles together, in increments over time.

Finds that improved management of the state's water resources, clarifying the authorities, requirements, and timelines for establishing instream flows, providing timely decisions on water transfers, clarifying the authority of water conservancy boards, and enhancing the flexibility of our water management system to meet both environmental and economic goals are important steps to providing a better future for our state.

Declares that the need for these improvements is particularly urgent as we are faced with the imminent threat of drought conditions. The failure to act now will only increase the potential negative effects on both the economy and the environment, including fisheries resources.

Declares that deliberative action over several legislative sessions and interim periods between sessions will be required to address the long-term goal of improving the responsiveness of the state water code to meet the diverse water needs of the state's citizenry.

Declares an intent to begin this work now by providing tools to enable the state to respond to imminent drought conditions and other immediate problems relating to water resources management. It is also the intent to lay the groundwork for future legislation for addressing the state's long-term water problems.

-- 2001 REGULAR SESSION --

- Apr 2 APP - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass.
Minority; without recommendation.
Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.
- Apr 10 Rules Committee relieved of further consideration. Placed on second reading.
- Apr 11 1st substitute bill substituted.
Floor amendment(s) adopted.
Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.
Third reading, passed: yeas, 83; nays, 14; absent, 1.

- IN THE SENATE -

- Apr 12 First reading, referred to Environment, Energy & Water.

HB 2241

by Representatives Ericksen, Woods,
Mitchell, Esser, Morell and Anderson

Modifying transportation project permitting.

Declares that streamlining the permit approval process is essential for reducing project delays and for making the most efficient use of every transportation dollar.

Finds that the greatest efficiency and effectiveness in both protecting our environmental resources and in constructing the transportation infrastructure required to serve Washington's growing population will come from the implementation of these standards by the department itself, with appropriate oversight, as defined in this act, by both natural resource agencies and local governments.

Creates the transportation permit efficiency and accountability committee.

Provides that by January 1, 2002, the committee shall issue an interim report to the legislature detailing its progress toward drafting or adopting the standards as required by this act.

Provides that, upon completion of the standard drafting or adoption process specified in this act, the department of ecology and the department of fish and wildlife shall delegate, to the maximum extent consistent with federal law, all environmental permitting authority currently exercised by these agencies, including, but not limited to, chapters 90.48, 90.58, and 77.55 RCW. The department of ecology and the department of fish and wildlife shall delegate authority by certifying the department to self-permit with regard to all state environmental permits currently issued, approved, or consulted upon by the department of ecology and the department of fish and wildlife.

Provides that, upon the certification or recertification provided for by this act, the department is exempt from obtaining any permit issued by a county, city, or town, regarding a transportation project of statewide significance, including, but not limited to, any permit issued under chapter 90.58 RCW, any permit related to regulation of critical areas under chapter 36.70A RCW, and any permit required for filling, grading, building, or construction, or any other permit required for a transportation project of statewide significance, that would otherwise be issued under a local ordinance meeting the definition of a development regulation under chapter 35.63, 35A.63, 36.70, 36.70A, or 36.70B RCW.

Provides that, for transportation projects of statewide significance, the department shall serve as the lead entity for all review required under the State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW. Nothing in this section may be construed as limiting the ability of local governments to participate in the SEPA process as provided for in chapter 43.21C RCW.

Declares that every two years the department shall send to the legislature, the governor, the department of ecology, and the department of fish and wildlife a report detailing its self-permitting activities over the previous two years. The report must include a detailed description of all permits issued during the previous two years and must include detailed analysis of all instances of noncompliance with the standards developed under this act, as well as all measures taken to prevent any future noncompliance.

Declares that, every seven years, the department of fish and wildlife and the department of ecology shall jointly conduct a review of the department's self-permitting practices over the previous six years. The department of ecology and the department of fish and wildlife shall submit a report on the performance of the department to the legislature and the governor. The report must include a recommendation as to whether the department should be decertified from self-permitting.

Provides that, where the department of fish and wildlife has delegated hydraulic project permit approval authority contained in this chapter to the department of transportation under chapter 47---RCW (sections 2 through 10 of this act), the department of transportation will be substituted for the department of fish and wildlife in an appeal of the approval of a permit concerning a hydraulic project that is a transportation project of statewide significance as defined in section 2 of this act. The appeal process for the permits issued by the department of transportation under authority delegated by the department of fish and wildlife will operate in the same manner as for permits granted by the department of fish and wildlife under chapter 77.55 RCW.

-- 2001 REGULAR SESSION --

Apr 12 First reading, referred to Transportation.

HB 2242 by Representatives Cody, Lisk, Ruderman, Alexander and Eickmeyer

Revising provisions for medicaid nursing home rates.

Revises provisions for medicaid nursing home rates.

Repeals RCW 74.46.908 and 74.46.506.

Provides that the act shall be null and void if appropriations are not approved.

-- 2001 REGULAR SESSION --

Apr 12 First reading, referred to Appropriations.

Senate Bills

SB 6143-S by Senate Committee on Human Services & Corrections (originally sponsored by Senators T. Sheldon, Hargrove, Long, Costa, Roach, Snyder, McCaslin, Spanel, Winsley, Gardner, Eide, Zarelli, Rossi, Benton, Hochstatter, Swecker, Kastama, Shin, Patterson, Kline, Fraser, McAuliffe and Rasmussen)

Requiring publication of level III sex and kidnapping offender notifications.

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 4/11/01)

Requires newspapers to have a policy to print all statutorily required legal notices and to hold a periodical class mailing permit.

Provides that the county sheriff with whom an offender classified as risk level III is registered shall cause to be

published by legal notice, advertising, or news release a sex offender community notification that conforms to the guidelines established under RCW 4.24.5501 in at least one legal newspaper with general circulation in the area of the sex offender's registered address or location. The county sheriff shall also cause to be published consistent with this act a current list of level III registered sex offenders, twice yearly. This list shall be maintained by the county sheriff on a publicly accessible web site and shall be updated at least once per month.

-- 2001 REGULAR SESSION --

Apr 6 HSC - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass.
Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.
Made eligible to be placed on second reading.

Apr 10 Placed on second reading by Rules Committee.

Apr 11 1st substitute bill substituted.
Floor amendment(s) adopted.
Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.
Third reading, passed: yeas, 48; nays, 0; absent, 1.

SB 6176 by Senators Hochstatter, Patterson, Costa, Stevens, Fairley, Parlette, Hargrove, Oke, Regala, Rasmussen, Haugen, Zarelli, Gardner, Finkbeiner, Fraser, Winsley, Honeyford, Snyder, McCaslin, McAuliffe, Eide, Long, Carlson, Roach, Deccio, Hewitt, Thibaudreau, Franklin, T. Sheldon, West, Shin and Kastama

Reenacting and affirming Washington's blanket primary system.

Recognizes that any rights political parties have in the choosing of candidates is implicit in the sovereign citizens' expressed choice.

Finds that the citizens of Washington are satisfied with the blanket primary election system and reject any attack on that system by political parties, courts, legislators, or administrators. Washington's blanket primary election system is hereby reenacted and affirmed.

Directs the secretary of state to submit this act to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the next general election to be held in this state, in accordance with Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to facilitate its operation.

-- 2001 REGULAR SESSION --

Apr 11 First reading, referred to State & Local Government.

SB 6177 by Senators Fraser, Morton, Brown, Winsley, Fairley, T. Sheldon, Finkbeiner, Franklin, Jacobsen, Spanel, Regala, Snyder, Prentice, Patterson, Hargrove, Constantine and Kohl-Welles

Managing energy supply and demand.

Finds that: (1) A sufficient, reliable, and affordable supply of energy is critically important to the health and welfare of the citizens of the state and to the prosperity of the state and region;

(2) The state is experiencing dramatic increases in the costs of electricity and natural gas as a result of many factors out of the state's direct control, and these unprecedented price increases have a disproportionate impact on the low-income citizens of the state;

(3) It remains in the state's best interest to encourage private investment in renewable energy resources and to reduce the reliance on a limited number of the energy resources used in this state;

(4) Energy generation and distribution systems and technologies have changed greatly since the original enactment of the state's energy facility siting laws thirty years ago. Experience during this time has demonstrated that a state council with the primary responsibility for energy facility siting approval is warranted, but that its procedures and authorities can be improved to enhance energy supplies;

(5) Existing legislative oversight of the state's response to energy shortages is in need of updating since the original creation of the joint legislative committee on energy and utilities after the last energy crisis; and

(6) The current energy situation requires that the state undertake economic and policy decisions to effectuate both short-term and long-term solutions that will assist individual consumers as well as commercial and industrial customers of electricity while protecting the environment.

Declares an intent of this act to: (1) Help mitigate the adverse consequences of recent utility rate increases on Washington's low-income citizens by creating incentives for gas and electric utilities to adopt billing discounts and to make contributions to low-income energy assistance programs;

(2) Provide electricity consumers the opportunity to exercise their market power by choosing to purchase power from alternative energy resources including renewable resources, and to reward businesses and utilities that become "EnergySmart";

(3) Modify the statutory procedures and authorities of the energy facility siting evaluation council to encourage generators to operate their facilities to their fullest capacity;

(4) Modify the name and statutory procedures of the joint legislative committee tasked with providing oversight in times of energy shortages;

(5) Offer limited tax incentives to direct service industrial customers to develop alternative sources of electricity and relieve the burden their demand places on the Bonneville power administration; and

(6) Remove unnecessary barriers to the development of new, cost-based electricity generation resources by public agencies.

Revising primary election law.

Declares an intent to create a primary for all elected offices, other than president and vice president, that: (1) Allows all voters, including independents and those unaffiliated with a political party, to participate;

(2) Preserves the privacy of voters' ballot selection and party affiliation, if any;

(3) Rejects mandatory voter registration by political party;

(4) Protects ballot access for minor political parties and independent candidates;

(5) Maintains the right of any candidate to self-identify with any major political party; and

(6) Upholds a political party's First Amendment right of association.

-- 2001 REGULAR SESSION --

Apr 11 First reading, referred to State & Local Government.

-- 2001 REGULAR SESSION --

Apr 11 First reading, referred to Environment, Energy & Water.

SB 6178 by Senators Snyder, Spanel and Constantine

LIST OF BILLS IN DIGEST SUPPLEMENTS CONT.

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